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**State Registration Certificate**  
No. 18034-6884P dated 16.08.2011

**Publisher of international  
scientific-practical journal**  
Institute of Higher Education,  
Kyiv National Economic University  
named after Vadym Hetman  
<http://ibe.kneu.edu.ua>

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[www.kneu.edu.ua](http://www.kneu.edu.ua)

Print run: 500 copies

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*DEAR READERS*

You see the latest issue of *University Education*, in which Ukrainian and foreign experts share the results of their research on current issues and directions of higher education development.

Over the last decade there have been profound changes in the higher education environment: universities are no longer referred to as institutions that provide knowledge to society, but the ones that generate economic, social and innovative development. Today global trends in the sphere of higher education are as follows: increased competition among universities for finance; intensified regional and international scientific and educational cooperation; enhanced coordination of business-academia interaction, extended technological possibilities and implementation of cutting edge technologies to improve the quality of educational services.

In such conditions it is of vital importance for higher educational institutions aspiring to become more competitive to study the experience of world class universities, the results of breakthrough research on university governance, prospects for growth of higher education and experts' recommendations.

It is a big honor for us to draw the readers' attention to the article by Jamil Salmi, the renowned expert in tertiary education. The article reveals the essence and features of research universities as well as their role in global competitiveness and the economic growth of the country. Strategic approaches to the establishment of world class universities in emerging economies as well as university challenges, risks and costs are thoroughly analysed by the famous author.

The article by Thomas Esterman, Director for Governance, Funding and Public Policy of the European University Association, is devoted to such important and urgent topic for Ukraine today as university autonomy. The article highlights the issue of university autonomy in Europe and member countries of the TEMPUS project aimed at developing and modernizing the system of higher education in Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine.

The article by Daniel Schiller acquaints the readers with the organization and ways of financing research activity of German universities, their strategic decisions and financial support given by the government to develop the scientific potential and international competitiveness of the universities.

One of the results of long-term cooperation between the State University of New York and Kyiv National Economic University is a joint article written by Gregory Gardner and



KNEU researchers. It reveals the issues of innovative strategies of the US research universities and their role in the US innovation system. The types and features of university entrepreneurial activity as well as university-business partnerships are analysed.

The results of the research into the issues of university management in the US (Wisconsin-Madison university taken as an example) that can be used in the process of modernization of the higher education system of Ukraine are disclosed in the journal by Dmytro Khutkyy.

The issues of the higher education system of Finland, experience of implementing Bologna process in the universities as well as instruments used to provide high quality curricula development, are revealed in the article by Anastasia Syzenko.

The article by the researchers from Kyiv National Economic University is devoted to the analysis of correlation between higher education and sustainable development in different countries. The current trends in the development of higher education under conditions of sustainable development, the role, functions and the potential of universities in providing sustainable development, the ways of tackling problems of sustainable development with the help of higher education institutions are set forth in the article.

The current state of higher education in Ukraine, the challenges the country faces after the adoption of the Law of Ukraine on Higher Education, reforms and systemic changes necessary to put the Ukrainian system of higher education in line with the European one, are researched in the article by Mychailo Wynnyckyj.

This issue of the journal also presents the results of the research conducted in OECD countries in 2014. It highlights the importance of endowment funds, as instruments of raising finance, peculiarities of on-line education and bench-marking, as the instrument of marketing research and strategic planning, which is widely used by higher education institutions.

Cooperation with higher education institutions is one of the top priorities for leading companies in the global knowledge economy. Its importance is highlighted by Olga Sviridenko, head of the department, for the cooperation with higher education institutions at Microsoft Ukraine.

We hope that journal publications will generate sincere interest of readers and result in further discussions both in future issues of the journal and in academic circles.